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# What is MU-MIMO and how can this technology be useful in my network?

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## What is MU-MIMO?

MU-MIMO stands for multi-user, multiple-input, multiple-output, and it is a new feature in IEEE 802.11ac Wave 2.

The [802.11ax WiFi](#) standard enables MU-MIMO to support more clients than ever. For example, the RAX200 communicates with multiple client devices simultaneously.

MU-MIMO operates in the downstream direction (access point to client) and allows an access point to transmit to multiple client devices simultaneously. SU-MIMO (single-user, multiple-input, multiple-output) is the predecessor technology that was part of the 2009 IEEE 802.11n wireless standard as well as the 802.11ac Wave 1 standard. SU-MIMO also allows multiple simultaneous transmissions, but only to one client device at a time.

MU-MIMO (802.11ac Wave 2) is like a switch: it allows simultaneous transmission of data to multiple clients. SU-MIMO (802.11n and 802.11ac Wave 1) is like a hub: it allows transmission to only one client at a time.

If you want to use MU-MIMO in your home or business wireless network, both the client device and the access point must support 802.11ac Wave 2 MU-MIMO.

## How can MU-MIMO be useful in my network?

MU-MIMO reduces latency and improves performance during data-intense activities such as streaming video, video

## This article applies to:

- ➔ Access Point AC (4)
- ➔ Wireless AX Router Nighthawk (WiFi 6) (1)

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conferencing, or viewing webinars. Because the access point never interrupts its connection to the client to communicate with other clients, MU-MIMO minimizes jittery video, freezes, and buffering. MU-MIMO also helps to reduce network congestion and improve download speeds.

For more information:

- [How is Wi-Fi 6 different from Wi-Fi 5?](#)
- [RAX200 product page](#)

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